Government of Alberta

BUDGET 2010

Striking the Right Balance

Aboriginal Relations

BUSINESS PLAN 2010–13

Alberta

Aboriginal Relations

BUSINESS PLAN 2010-13

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The business plan for the three years commencing April 1, 2010 was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Government Accountability Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as of January 20, 2010 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in preparing the business plan.

The ministry's priorities outlined in the business plan were developed in the context of the government's business and fiscal plans. I am committed to achieving the planned results laid out in this business plan.

Original signed by

Len Webber, *Minister of Aboriginal Relations*
January 21, 2010

THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations consists of the Department of Aboriginal Relations, which is structured according to the following divisions: First Nations and Métis Relations, Consultation and Land Claims, and Policy and Planning. Although not separate entities for reporting purposes, the ministry supports two important institutions that are accountable to the minister: The Métis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, a quasi-judicial body established by the *Métis Settlements Act*, which works to resolve disputes pertaining to land, membership and surface rights; and the Office of the Métis Settlements Ombudsman, which investigates complaints regarding the administration of Settlement affairs.

VISION

Strong and vibrant Aboriginal communities and people, fully participating in the opportunities of a prosperous and diverse Alberta.

MISSION

Oversee the development and alignment of Government of Alberta legislation, policies and initiatives that affect Aboriginal people and their rights, by building effective relationships with Aboriginal communities, industry and governments.

LINK TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

The Aboriginal Relations business plan links to the *Government of Alberta Strategic Business Plan* through **Goal 9: Alberta will have strong and effective municipalities and self-reliant Aboriginal communities.** This goal is supported through consultation with Aboriginal people, and governance and socio-economic development initiatives.

SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Demographic trends show a clear distinction between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Alberta. The non-Aboriginal population is aging while the Aboriginal population is younger and growing at a faster pace. This presents an opportunity with respect to meeting the demand for a skilled workforce as the economy rebounds. There will be greater opportunities for Aboriginal people and communities to participate in economic growth and diversification. This should result in increased skills and provide additional resources for both individuals and their communities.

There are challenges in taking advantage of this opportunity, particularly the need to improve educational, social and health outcomes for Aboriginal people. Although the provincial economic situation will have some impact, the ministry will contribute to initiatives that address these challenges. The ministry will support Aboriginal communities to build capacity and develop economic partnerships; collaborate with other ministries to improve educational, social and health outcomes; and provide advice with respect to provincial government legislation, policy and programs that affect Aboriginal people.

Other challenges include the increasingly complex legal and resource development issues involving Aboriginal people. The impact of oil sands development, water management issues and the cumulative effects of industrial development are concerns expressed by some Aboriginal people. The ministry will continue to maintain effective relationships with Aboriginal communities and organizations and facilitate the involvement of other ministries and stakeholder groups to address concerns. For example, the ministry was assigned the lead in coordinating the provincial government's response to concerns in Fort Chipewyan. The ministry will also review and revise the First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development with stakeholders to support Alberta in meeting its legal obligations with respect to First Nations' treaty rights while remaining competitive and moving forward with sustainable resource development on Crown land.

Overall, these opportunities and challenges reinforce the need to facilitate relationships, develop strategic partnerships, strengthen the capacity of Aboriginal communities, and provide advice to other government ministries. These efforts will recognize the importance of Aboriginal people in the cultural heritage of the province and in Alberta's continuing economic prosperity.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Through the ministry's review of external factors, the strategic priorities described below have been identified. These priorities are in addition to the important ongoing core activities of the ministry which are consistent with the overall direction provided by *Strengthening Relationships: The Government of Alberta's Aboriginal Policy Framework.*

1. Consultation **Linkage:** **Goal 2**	Review Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development to increase the effectiveness of consultation processes.
2. Aboriginal policies and programs **Linkage:** **Goal 1**	Review the *Aboriginal Policy Framework* and Government of Alberta Aboriginal programs and services to enhance their effectiveness in increasing self-reliance and well-being of Aboriginal communities.
3. First Nations relationships **Linkage:** **Goal 1**	Continue to establish and maintain effective relationships between the Government of Alberta and First Nations through the Protocol Agreement on Government to Government Relations to support First Nations economic, social and community development.
4. Strong communities **Linkage:** **Goal 1**	Provide support to the Safe Communities Initiative in implementing the recommendations of the Crime Reduction and Safe Communities Task Force that affect Aboriginal people.
5. Aboriginal education **Linkage:** **Goal 1**	Coordinate discussions and initiatives with First Nations, Métis and Inuit, Alberta ministries and, where appropriate, the federal government, to support the improvement of educational outcomes for Aboriginal people.
6. Aboriginal economic participation **Linkage:** **Goals 1 and 2**	Coordinate discussions and initiatives with First Nations, Métis and Inuit and related Aboriginal organizations, industry, Alberta ministries and, where appropriate, the federal government, to improve overall socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal people.

CORE BUSINESSES, GOALS, STRATEGIES & PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Core Business One: Aboriginal relationships, policy and initiatives

GOAL ONE 1 Support economic and social development of Aboriginal communities and people

What It Means The ministry implements initiatives to develop strategic economic partnerships among Aboriginal communities, industry and educational institutions; provides advice and specialized knowledge to provincial and federal departments, municipal governments and industry; and leads or participates in cross-ministry strategies affecting Aboriginal people. These activities serve to establish effective relationships, legislation, policies and initiatives that contribute to strong and vibrant Aboriginal communities and people.

Strategies

1.1 Work with the Métis Settlements General Council to implement the existing interim governance and funding agreement.

1.2 Review the *Aboriginal Policy Framework* and all Government of Alberta Aboriginal programs and services to enhance their effectiveness in increasing self-reliance and well-being of Aboriginal communities.

1.3 Lead Alberta's implementation of the Protocol Agreement on Government to Government Relations with First Nations.

1.4 Collaborate and build relationships with Aboriginal organizations, industry and governments to develop strategic partnerships to enhance Aboriginal participation in the economy.

1.5 Support inclusion of Aboriginal perspectives in the development and implementation of provincial social policies and initiatives, including mechanisms to address Aboriginal education issues and government plans to ensure strong and vibrant communities, such as the Safe Communities Initiative.

1.6 Lead the participation of Alberta ministries in discussions with First Nations and the federal government on self-governance.

1.7 Through the Alberta/Métis Nation of Alberta Association Framework Agreement, work with the Métis Nation of Alberta Association (MNAA) and other ministries toward the goals of economic development and Métis well-being.

1.8 Support economic, social and community development projects through the First Nations Development Fund and the Community Development Trust Fund.

1.9 Work with the federal government, other provinces, territories, municipalities and First Nations, Métis Settlements, the MNAA and other entities, to develop regional strategies and community development plans to address Aboriginal issues and to support urban Aboriginal initiatives.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2008-09	Target 2010-11	Target 2011-12	Target 2012-13
1.a **Economic Projects:** Number of strategic economic initiatives and economic capacity building projects undertaken by First Nations and First Nations organizations	24	20	21	22

GOAL TWO 2

Alberta meets its constitutional and legal obligations regarding Aboriginal consultation and land claims

What It Means The ministry has an important role to support the province's constitutional and legal obligations regarding Aboriginal people, including the settlement of treaty land entitlement claims and the duty to consult whenever constitutional rights may be adversely affected. The review and implementation of applicable legislation, the refinement of consultation policy guidelines and continued support for the development of traditional use studies help to meet the government's responsibilities. These initiatives also contribute to economic growth and participation in the provincial economy.

Strategies

2.1 Review Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development and the associated guidelines to increase the effectiveness of consultation processes.

2.2 Continue to improve coordination of Alberta ministries in meeting the province's obligation to consult whenever constitutional rights may be adversely affected.

2.3 Invest in consultation capacity and work with First Nations to offset resource development costs and enhance competitiveness, and to develop traditional use data and protocols used for land management and resource development consultations.

2.4 Work with Alberta ministries, the federal government and First Nations toward resolution of land-related negotiations, including treaty land entitlement claims for which Alberta has an obligation under the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.

2.5 Continue coordinating Alberta's participation in discussions with First Nations and the federal government regarding the removal of barriers to economic activity on First Nations reserves pursuant to federal legislation.

2.6 Work with other ministries, industry and Aboriginal communities and organizations to implement the *Land-use Framework* and explore mechanisms to increase certainty for all entities in the oil sands regions.

Performance Measures	Last Actual 2008-09	Target 2010-11	Target 2011-12	Target 2012-13
2.a **Land Claims and Related Agreements:** Progress on the negotiation and implementation of land claims and related agreements[1]				
• Number of final agreements	2	5	5	5
• Number of fully implemented agreements	15	15	15	15

Performance Measures	Last Actual 2008-09	Target 2010-11	Target 2011-12	Target 2012-13
2.b **Contacts for Consultation:** Number of First Nations with a single point of contact for consultation[2]	39	40	40	40

Notes:

1 The ministry coordinates Alberta's participation in the negotiation of land claims and related agreements between the Government of Canada and First Nations and ensures that the obligations of the province are fulfilled. The figures for Performance Measure 2.a indicate the status of the negotiations at the end of the fiscal year. For example, if a final agreement is fully implemented during the year, it is counted as a fully implemented agreement and no longer counted as a final agreement.

2 A single point of contact is a liaison identified by a First Nation, under an agreement with Alberta, with a specific mandate to consult with Alberta and industry. This is important for the implementation of Alberta's consultation policy as it ensures project proponents have a designated contact within First Nation communities to work with. There are 47 First Nations in Alberta.

EXPENSE BY CORE BUSINESS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable					
	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget	2009-10 Forecast	2010-11 Estimate	2011-12 Target	2012-13 Target
Aboriginal relationships, policy and initiatives	141,813	149,971	149,367	152,529	154,529	162,529
MINISTRY EXPENSE	141,813	149,971	149,367	152,529	154,529	162,529

MINISTRY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable					
	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget	2009-10 Forecast	2010-11 Estimate	2011-12 Target	2012-13 Target
REVENUE						
Internal Government Transfers	102,075	110,200	110,200	118,200	126,700	134,200
Other Revenue	295	-	186	-	-	-
MINISTRY REVENUE	102,370	110,200	110,386	118,200	126,700	134,200
EXPENSE						
Program						
Ministry Support Services	3,198	3,691	3,661	3,803	3,803	3,951
First Nations and Métis Relations	20,977	21,724	21,424	18,218	11,718	11,581
Métis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,117	1,092	1,092	1,119	1,119	1,163
First Nations Development Fund	101,875	110,000	110,000	118,000	126,500	134,000
Consultation and Land Claims	13,231	12,114	12,014	10,218	10,218	10,617
Policy and Planning	1,180	1,350	1,176	1,171	1,171	1,217
Valuation Adjustments and Other Provisions	235	-	-	-	-	-
MINISTRY EXPENSE	141,813	149,971	149,367	152,529	154,529	162,529
Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET OPERATING RESULT	(39,443)	(39,771)	(38,981)	(34,329)	(27,829)	(28,329)

CONSOLIDATED NET OPERATING RESULT

(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable					
	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget	2009-10 Forecast	2010-11 Estimate	2011-12 Target	2012-13 Target
Ministry Revenue	102,370	110,200	110,386	118,200	126,700	134,200
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	(102,075)	(110,200)	(110,200)	(118,200)	(126,700)	(134,200)
Consolidated Revenue	295	-	186	-	-	-
Ministry Expense	141,813	149,971	149,367	152,529	154,529	162,529
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Expense	**141,813**	**149,971**	**149,367**	**152,529**	**154,529**	**162,529**
Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONSOLIDATED NET OPERATING RESULT	(141,518)	(149,971)	(149,181)	(152,529)	(154,529)	(162,529)